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### Expert on emerging diseases to speak at UM

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 30, 2008

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### **EXPERT ON EMERGING DISEASES TO SPEAK AT UM**

#### **MISSOULA—**

Peter Daszak, executive director of the Consortium for Conservation Medicine in New York City, will give the next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana.

He will present "Using Ecological Approaches to Understand and Predict Emerging Diseases" at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, in the University Theatre.

Daszak has done prolific research on the taxonomy, pathology and conservation impact of parasitic diseases, particularly those of non-mammalian vertebrates and invertebrates.

In collaboration with groups in Britain, Australia and the United States, he discovered a previously unknown fungal disease of amphibians – chytridiomycosis. The disease is a major cause of frog population declines globally and may be transmitted by bullfrogs. The discovery highlights the link that has been shown to exist between global trade and disease emergence, a process known as pathogen pollution.

Earlier that day from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Daszak will give a seminar titled "Why Do Emerging Diseases Like SARS and West Nile Happen and What Can We Do to Stop Them?" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Both events are free and open to the public.



A teacher at American and British universities, Daszak has served on committees of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Health Organization, the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

He is the author of many scientific papers and is currently working co-writing a popular science book on emerging wildlife diseases.

Daszak's work has been the focus of extensive media coverage in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post and U.S. News & World Report. He has appeared on CNN, ABC and National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" and "Morning Edition."

More information about the 2008-09 President's Lecture Series is online at <http://www.umt.edu/president/pls>.

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